An Essay On

(The Doctor of Medicine)

Respectfully Submitted to the Faculty

of the

Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

By

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The Doctor of Medicine.

The desire to progress is the motto (of) of the times. Theology. Jurisprudence. and agriculture. have been marching on toward perfection. But in nothing. has there been greater progress. than in medicine. From the days of Hippocrates. to the present time. the science has been continually improving. Some of the greatest men of the land. have turned their attention. and given their work. to the development. and the perfection of medical ideas. until thousands of beings, are occupied in exploring the rich mines of medical Science.

The study of medicine. is one of the most noble pursuits. that

a man can engage in. although the ordeal. through which the Student and Physician must necessarily pass. is a difficult and perplexing one. From the time the Student gives his attention to the study. till he retires from the active duties of the profession. his. is a life of study.

Diseases are constantly changing. and new ones developing themselves. which necessarily make the practice of medicine. a difficult and perplexing one.

Notwithstanding the Physician has a life of toil. energy. and anxiety. to pass through.-Yet it is an honorable.

one. There is something that is glorious about it. His is a noble work. yet a difficult one. Yes. many are the hardships and privations he undergoes. while performing his God given work. in the removal of disease, and the restoration of health. to the almost dying invalid. —— Many times. by the early administration of proper remedies. and the correctness of diagnosis. millions are snatched from the jaws of death. and saved from an untimely grave. And yet, the Physician often has to do a great deal for nothing. By this I mean. we may accomplish much good. and get no thanks.

or money for it. and then, again, we will accomplish but little, or perhaps nothing, and get much money, and many thanks. For (I take it), it is only necessary, for people to think that we have done them a great deal of good, and, it appears, that they are not always the least judges of such things. ~

It is proper that we should labor for the advancement of Homoeopathy, by adding such information in regard to the curative action of its drugs, to the general field of information possessed by the profession, as we may discover, and also to add such

articles to our Materia Medica, as we may find possessed of undoubted therapeutic properties.

We should remember that Art is long, and life is short, and that we have but a brief period, in which to act: Then let us act aright, heart within, and God o'er head. The mighty wheel of time is fast turning around, and soon we will be launched into Eternity. Soon; the Sun of our existence will repose behind its Western declivity, to rise again in Eternity. — Soon; we will with tottering steps, move onward to the grave. — Soon; we will be teachers, where we now are

scholars. — Soon; we will delight where we now pine: — Soon; we will see clearly where we now are blind. —

What a blessing to suffering humanity, when the Immortal Hahnemann, after years of hard toil and study, brought to light the glorious science of Homoeopathy; How he and his followers were scorned, and jeered at, by the dominant school, or Irregulars, as they have been more recently styled. —

How at first the feeble light dimly flickered in the past, until year, after year, rolled by, and new ideas were added to the Materia Medica, till now, that

feeble light. has become a
blazing Star; (as it were.) and
we have Homoeopathic Physicians
in almost every town and city
in the land. and not only here.
but in England also. many of
the most intelligent people have
put their shoulder to the wheel,
and are now promulgating the
doctrines of the glorious science. —

The time has come when Quacks
are not tolerated. They are
nuisances, & mere signboard like-
nesses. of the human race. —
Good Physicians are demanded.
of the profession. and the public
will have them. —

What advantages

we possess of acquiring an Education. compared to those of our predecessors. Were it possible for Physicians of past centuries, to witness the progress of the present generation. and observe the facilities of acquiring a medical education to-day. ⁊ might. they not remark: How meagre were my own facilities for obtaining a knowledge of Medicine. — compared with the advantages of this. the Nineteenth Century.

When we look back into the Shadowy past. Ere the Sun dawned upon the Science of Homoeopathy. and beheld the barbarous, inconsistent. practice of the Irregulars. — how imperfect; (I might say). was the Science of

medicine then taught. When the M. D.
Struck the fatal lancet into the
already sinking patient. and let
the vital Spark(s) ooze out! —

Thank God!

there has been a reform in
the Medical world. and there
will be a greater one. —
The blessed Sun. will soon dawn
upon a brighter day in therapeu-
tics, and Homoeopathy will stand
alone and undefied. —
Allopathy is fast drifting down
the tide of life. and she will
soon be wrecked upon the shoal
which we have avoided! —
The fact of it is. he who lives
to see but a few years hence.
will witness this mighty downfall! —

Although the tree is old, and its roots run deep: yet, it must die, and the "mighty Aconite" will yet tread upon the grave of the broken lancet.

No Physician, ought to rest satisfied with his scientific acquirements. Even if he has obtained a Diploma. — Has he a high and noble calling, & age: and a most difficult, and responsible one. This we will doubtless find out when we come to engage largely in practice. —

The almost innumerable sources of error in diagnosis, and the difficulty of finding a remedy for every case which may present itself, to test our patience, and skill, are the causes, that make

the practice of medicine, the most difficult of all others, to the conscientious Physician. Doubtless, we will find use for all the information on medical subjects that we have labored to acquire, and after we have done all that we can do, we will often find ourselves cramped, for want of knowledge.—

As Homoeopathic Physicians are considered heterodox, in therapeutics, we should endeavor, by our scientific attainments, to command the respect of the multitude, and even of Physicians of the opposite school of medicine: A confidence in our scientific knowledge, will go far toward commanding their attention

to the great law of Homoeopathy, viz. "Similia Similibus Curantur."

I do not mean to say, that the practice of Homoeopathy is perfect. It is not yet perfect. But unlike all other systems of medicine, it has in it the Elements of perfection. A close attention to the symptoms, and the pathology of disease, and the effect of drugs on the system of man, will ultimate in time, in the formation of a complete Materia Medica, by which, all the diseases of humanity will be controlled.

But Allopathy, has no such prospects, By what means, is She to perfect

her Materia Medica? How long will it take her to attain this End. by Empirical observation alone. I do not believe She has averaged more than a specific, for Every thousand years. for the last three, or four. Mercury for Syphilis; Quinine for Intermittents; & Sulphur for Itch; are the fruits of about those thousand years labor!- What may we expect from her at this rate. The truth is! Allopathy has to die! and Homoeopathy, in the next fifty years. will have attained her majority, and be almost universally acknowledged, by all civilized nations as the true healing art! —

Let us. therefore.

labor for the perfection of our Materia Medica, and the success of our colleges, upon which, much depends. While we labor to advance Homoeopathy, we labor for ourselves. It will increase our practice, and our success in curing diseases. And when, in after years, we shall have retired from active life, we will be comforted with the thought, that we have been of some service, to our fellow man:— That we have driven death from the door of the poor sufferer:— That we have passed many a sleepless night, and rode through many a storm, to minister to the ails of a suffering humanity.

And when, in the evening of life, in our declining years, old age, with its infirmities, shall bid us cease our labors; we may be able to look back upon our past lives, with pleasing recollections, that we have done some good to our fellow travellor, while journeying through life: And, that when we shall have quit the shores of time, it may not be said of us, that we dreamed through life, without having made any mark of distinction, upon the pages of our Existence.

But like the Immortal Kahnemann, may we go to sleep with blessings upon our heads; and our names,

like his; be sounded through after generations, and those who follow us, be profited by the few articles we may have contributed to our Materia Medica.